

Kwok-Shung Cheng et al.
Serial No. 09/890/290
Amendment

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REMARKS

Claims 5, 7 and 9 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 (c) as being multiple dependent claims depending on multiple dependent claim. The claims were amended by a preliminary amendment faxed on November 14, 2002 to satisfy this objection. Accordingly, this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6, 8-18, 20-24, 26-30 and 32 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) over Kawai et al. It is the Examiner's position that Kawai teaches a filtration cartridge including a membrane formed of perfluorinated thermoplastic resin and that the membrane and cartridge can be configured in the specific configuration defined by the dependent claims.

Kawai et al disclose film membranes comprising particles of a tetrafluoroethylene homopolymer or copolymer (PTFE) dispersed in a filter forming polymer such as viscose. The film forming polymer then is removed from the PTFE to form a porous structure after heat treatment of the PTFE-film forming polymer composition. In contrast, applicants' membranes are formed by phase inversion. As set forth in applicants' specification, the Kawai et al membranes are formed by a more complex manufacturing process and are weaker (Page 5, lines 16-26). Applicants' claims are limited to membranes formed by phase inversion. Accordingly, this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 7, 19, 25 and 31 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 (A) over Kawai et al in view of EPO 125431A2. It is the Examiner's position that it would be obvious to provide the perfluorinated polymer thermoplastic support of EP'432 for the membrane of Kawai et al.

Kawai et al is discussed above. EP'432 discloses a laminated membrane construction formed of a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) membrane and a porous fluorocarbon support. (PTFE) is not thermoplastic as required by applicants.

(i) Kawai process is phase inversion
(ii) phase inversion process does not meet prior art claims
claims product

No secondary ref intended for the
attest 31: a try attempt
7, 19 & 31: does not teach
680 ggs. atty 31: but obv.

Support is only 25 only.
for claim 25 only.
claims 7, 19 & 31
it is the atty 31.

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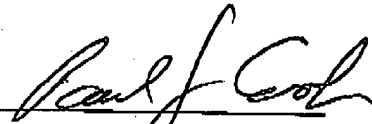
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Thus, EP'432 does not supply the deficiencies of Kawai et al. Accordingly, this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims define patentable subject matter and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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